

Future leaders
Rite of Passage milestone
of LTC training ... pg. 4

Outside The Wire

Hollywood — “Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines” took charge of the box office during the July 4 weekend.

The third Terminator movie sold \$44.1 million in tickets between Friday and Sunday. The movie has grossed a total of \$72.5 million since July 2.

Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde came in second in the charts with \$22.9 million in ticket sales for the weekend.

Los Angeles — The man who made hillbillies well known as Jed Clampett died Sunday morning in a hospital in California.

Buddy Ebsen, 95, died after being treated for an undisclosed illness.

Ebsen starred in “The Beverly Hillbillies” and “Barnaby Jones,” as well as several Broadway shows and MGM musicals in the 30s.

Eagle, Colo. — Prosecutors are deciding whether to file charges against Los Angeles Laker’s guard Kobe Bryant who is accused of sexually assaulting a woman at a resort hotel near Vail last month.

Bryant’s lawyer, Pamela Mackey, told the AP she expects Bryant to be exonerated.

Singapore — The 29-year-old conjoined Iranian twins who made headlines after deciding to go through with an unprecedented surgery to separate them died Tuesday.

The women underwent 50 hours of surgery to separate their two distinct brains.

Ladan Bijani died after her blood circulation failed. Her sister, Laleh, died one-and-a-half hours later.

Twins conjoined at the head are the rarest of conjoined twins, according to CNN, occurring in one of every two-million births.

Africa — President George W. Bush is on a five-nation trip to Africa this week.

The trip includes a U.S. humanitarian goodwill package aimed at fighting AIDS, terrorism and poverty, and promotes democracy and capitalism.

Celebrations

Graduation concludes LTC for cadets

BY LINDSAY SAINLAR
Staff writer

It was a warm and promising Sunday morning for the cadets of Alpha Company who were about to complete their final day of the Leader’s Training Course. Family, friends and cadre were present at Victory Field on June 29 to watch cadets march across the field and graduate from LTC.

“You should be proud of what you men and women have done in the past 29 days,” said Maj. Gen. Terry L. Tucker, the Commanding General for the US Army Armor Center Fort Knox.

At 9 a.m., graduation got underway as cadets marched into formation on the field. The audience couldn’t tell the future leaders learned Drill and Ceremony only four short weeks ago.

Col. Paul L. Willis, LTC Commander, asked the audience: “Parents, family and friends are you proud of these cadets on the field this morning?”

The audience responded with a rowdy, “HOOAH!”

Fifteen separate awards were presented to distinguished individuals who excelled in their leadership training and Tucker gave the Reviewing Officer’s Address before the cadets finally passed in review.

Moments later they came back to mingle with familiar faces from their hometown for a few minutes before running back to the barracks to finish any last minute packing.

Thirty-three years ago, Tucker completed a camp equivalent to that of LTC.

“My summer camp was different than yours, but it was a different planet, a different Army, a different culture, but some things stayed the same—the leadership, excellence and professionalism,” Tucker said.

“You are the leadership of the future Army, stand tall.” After graduation ended, cadets were able to stand taller and feel more confident in their abilities.

“When I started I thought I wasn’t going to make it and now I know I did it,” Cadet Doras Caban, 3/A/1-46, University of Puerto Rico, said. “I feel like I can do whatever I want and I know I’m going to make it.”

Cadet Aaron Bolyard, 2/A/1-46, Xavier University, said LTC has disciplined him and enforced his desire to contract with the

See VICTORY, 3



Melanie Blanding/Leader

Cadets in the A/1-46 Color Guard present the colors during the A/1-46 graduation June 29 at Victory Field. Alpha 1-46 was the first company to complete the Leader’s Training Course this summer.

100th Division supports LTC training

BY STEPHANIE TOONE
Staff writer

Whether they are out in the woods or out on a range, cadets attending LTC are in the experienced hands of the perfect training component. Cadets at LTC have learned to master shooting 9mm’s and to navigate through the wilderness on Ft. Knox with training provided by the 8th Brigade of the 100th Division.

As part of the Army Reserve, soldiers in the 100th Division serve in the Army and maintain civilian jobs – it’s mission this summer is to train LTC cadets to become superb future leaders for the U.S. Army.

Capt. Greg Roush, company commander and officer in charge of Land navigation, said that the 100th Division’s driving force is training. He said the 100th Division is an itinerate training division in four states-Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama.

The 8th Brigade has the unique opportunity to participate in programs such as LTC and the National Advanced Leadership Camp to train cadets in several

exercises. Here at LTC, the 100th Division assists cadets with four training committees-basic rifle marksmanship (BRM) range, 9mm range, Land Navigation and the field leadership reaction course (FLRC).

“They may be given four boards to create a bridge to get across a creek,” he said about FLRC. “It’s problem solving and leadership development.”

Corporal Shawn Wooten, land navigation instructor, trains cadets to use lensatic compasses with a map and a protractor. He said the main thing cadets learn from Land Nav is how to navigate through terrain.

Wooten said, as part of the Army Reserve, the 100th Division is well-known and established in the Army.

“This division has been around since World War II, as an armored division,” he said. “It was brought back during the Korean War as a training unit.”

See ESTABLISHED, 2



Michelle Blanding/Leader

Nathan Gasparac of the 100th Division instructs cadets from C/1-46 on basic Land Navigation techniques.

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Future Leaders ...

By Col. Paul L. Willis
Leader's Training Course Commander



Ours is a nation that was built on leadership, and no other date in our history defines it better than Independence Day. On that day, a group of courageous American colonists voted to adopt our Declaration of Independence. These were ordinary people, like you and me, who had a vision to create a country in which each and every one of its citizens could live in freedom. Two-hundred and twenty-seven years later, we still reap the benefits of their vision for a democracy. There is no greater example of leadership than in the Founding Fathers of this country.

What made these men leaders? They had a clear vision of the future and direction that our nation should take and inspired ordinary citizens to rise up to share in their vision. They had passion in what they believed. They were committed to their ideals and they inspired others to believe in what they believed was the course that our young nation should take.

Because of their beliefs, they inspired ordinary citizens to rise up, and to defend those ideals. As we all know, our freedom did not come free for those early warriors. For 227 years since, men and women have continued to answer the call when our freedoms and our way of life have been threatened. Today, not only do we protect our nation against all enemies,

foreign and domestic, we are committed, as a nation, to protect others so that they can enjoy peace, prosperity and freedom.

Since 1973 we have been an Army that has returned to its roots as an all volunteer force. We, as a nation, are fortunate to have young men and women, like you, willing to accept the responsibility and serve your nation as a leader of our countries sons and daughters. Your decision to attend the Leader's Training Course to pursue leadership excellence is to be commended. You have chosen to follow in the footsteps of some great Americans; and our founding fathers would be proud that you have chosen such a noble path.

I am absolutely convinced that Americans can rest peacefully knowing that you are the next generation of great American leaders who are willing to serve selflessly so that others can live in peace and freedom.

To the cadets of Delta and Bravo 1-46 and Charlie 2-46, remain focused on your task ahead. You have worked hard and continue to impress all of us each and every day with your determination and commitment. Each of you has what it takes to graduate from the Leader's Training Course. Each of you has what it takes to be a leader in the greatest, most powerful, Army in the world.

Cadet Talk

The LTC question of the week ...

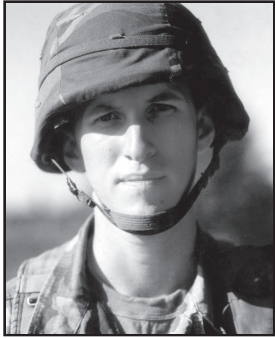
Leader staff writer Lindsay Sainlar asked cadets:

“What food item in your MRE would you never trade for something else?”



“I’d probably never trade the **jalapeno cheese** spread because truthfully it **kicks butt** and it tastes good. It’s a little **thick**, but heck, it’s supposed to be good for you and you can put it on almost **anything** in a MRE, not just your crackers ...”

Kelly Cooper
Georgia Military College
2/B/1-46



“My mint chocolate chip **pound cake** because it’s the **best food** item in the thing.”

Zachery Hitchcock
Ohio University
3/B/1-46



“I’m going to have to go with the **wheat snack** bread. It’s got that **communion wafer** kind of taste to it.”

Courtney Pullum
Jacksonville State University
2/B/1-46

Photos by Michelle Lohmann/Leader

Established Ky unit lends expertise to LTC

From page one

Since its beginning, the 100th Division has trained basic trainees, drill sergeants, active duty soldiers and reservists.

Roush said the 100th Division does more for ROTC than just LTC.

The 100th Division also runs Ranger Challenge. In October, Army ROTC cadets participate in a competition with events similar to LTC here on Ft. Knox.

To start the three-day weekend, the cadets take Physical Training Tests. The rest of the weekend consists of BRM, Land Nav, constructing a one

rope bridge and a hand grenade assault course.

After competing to assemble and disassemble M16’s and M60 machine guns, the spirited weekend finishes with the ruck run- a 10- kilometer run up a steep hill carrying a 25-pound rucksack. On Sunday, the top universities of each region receive awards.

The 100th Division soldiers do their share of support for Army ROTC. Along with his Army job, Roush is a counselor at Western

Hills High School in Frankfort. His job with helping young people never ends.

Wooten said that the balance between the Army and his civilian job is not an easy task.

“We’re part-time, but we train the same. We learn the same stuff,” Wooten said. “It’s just harder on us, because we’re balancing two careers instead of just one.”

Wooten said he thinks of the 100th Division as the support system for the Army.

“We reinforce the training of our fellow soldiers. The training never ends,” he said.



Michelle Lohmann/Leader

Sgt. 1st Class Dwight Durham and Sgt. Denise Oakley prepare whistles for Land Nav.

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Cadets take road less travelled at Land Navigation

BY LINDSAY SAINLAR

Staff writer

Cadets learned the hard way to go from point A to B this past week—and they had to take the path less taken through streams, thick masses of shrubbery and daddy long-leg territories to do just that.

For two days, cadets from Echo Company were briefed on the proper Land Navigation skills needed to find their way around the rolling terrain of Fort Knox. They were given magnetic compasses, which illuminate at night, an eight-digit grid coordinate and a protractor to measure their distance and direction.

There were 40 points, flagged with neon orange markers, strategically placed throughout the 10,000 square meter Land Navigation course. The points were anywhere from 400 to 2,600 meters apart from one another.

The cadets navigated the land on three separate occasions. Once during the day with a trainer from the 100th Division and their squad, then again at night when cadets gathered in groups of two and three to navigate to four different points. The cadets didn't arrive back at their barracks until 2 a.m. that night and were brought back early the next morning and dispersed to find five separate points out in the woods alone.

Cpl. Nathan Gasparac, 100th Division, walked with the 2nd platoon, 3rd squad during their first land navigation and explained to cadets the importance of them learning how to use terrain features to find their way.

"We've got global positioning systems now, but what happens if your GPS goes down and you don't know how to Land Nav as lieutenant? Who are they going to be looking to? They'll be looking at you cadet," Gasparac said.

He said soldiers who don't know how to land

navigate are as useless as a third leg.

Doused with bug spray to ward off unwanted critters, cadets were warned about the presence of deer ticks, which carry Lyme disease, and cautioned to check for them frequently.

Cadet Brandon Whitis, 1/E/1-46, University of Kentucky found four ticks on his person after completing the night navigation sequence. He said he encountered more difficulty running through the terrain features than using the map and compass to find his way.

"We ran as much as we could, most of the time we were pounding brush. We had some real thick stuff we had to go through and we had to navigate around some cliffs," Whitis said about the bumps and scrapes he and his partners came home with.

Cadet Matt Van Putte, 3/E/1-46, University of Missouri at Rolla, was the first cadet to finish the exercise clocking in at 47 minutes.

"I ran the whole thing," Van Putte said. "I was just trying to get back."

Sgt. Pete Kreidler said Van Putte had a pretty good trail to run too.

Not everything ran smoothly for him though. Van Putte said he received no points for his night Land Navigation.

"We got to a point and went to pull out the map and we didn't have it," he said. "I lost my protractor, my plastic cover and my map. It just fell out somewhere while we were walking."

Van Putte said he and his partner were lost for a half hour before they found other cadets and walked around with them.

"I'm good in the day," he said with a smile. "That's it."

Top Left: Cadet Tim O'Donaghue, 2/E/1-46 from University of Maryland, practices looking through his compass in preparation for land navigation exercises.

Left: Sean Terney, 2/E/1-46 from St. Mary's University; Ryan Windham, 2/E/1-46 from Houghton College and Stephanie O'Ferrall, 2/E/1-46 from North Eastern University study coordinates in preparation for land navigation.

Photos by Amber Sigman/Leader

Victory Field fills with proud parents, grads

From page one

Army.

"I get things done a little quicker, I don't wait around anymore and I don't procrastinate," he said.

Bolyard said he is relieved that he finally graduated and is looking forward to going home to his family and being surrounded by familiar faces. He plans on eating an apple as soon as he gets home.

"I started to really like them," Bolyard said, since he ate apples everyday at LTC.

Christina Payne, 3/A/1-46, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, said she is looking forward to an easier day, using a one-person shower and having an endless supply of toilet paper. Payne was given the Society of American Military Engineers Award, which is granted to an outstanding cadet who is enrolled in an engineering curriculum for military excellence.

It wasn't just the cadets who were beaming with pride.

Roxanne Headley, mother of Cadet Jared Headley, 3/A/1-46, Defiance College, said she couldn't describe the feelings she experienced as her son walked across Victory Field.

"It's been 28 days of hard work and it's neat watch

them here," Roxanne said. "It's (LTC) a wonderful thing and I think everyone should have to do it."

Roxanne was hesitant at first to send her son to LTC, but was comforted by Captain Michael Headley, her husband and his positive experience with the Army Reserves.

"I missed him (Jared) at home, but I knew this was something he wanted to do, so you kind of have to let go," Roxanne said. "I knew how tough it would be, but I know this experience is something that goes with you for a lifetime."

"I'm proud of him and the camaraderie that built between all of them (cadets)," she said.

For some cadets, the bond with fellow squad mates will be difficult to leave behind.

"I made a lot of friends and I think I'm going to miss them," Caban said. "We're going to try and keep contact by e-mail and we want to try and send pictures of each other."

She also said she would miss her drill sergeants.

"They always try and make things right and sometimes you need somebody to show you the right way," Caban said.

The respect goes both ways for some cadre.

Staff Sgt. Ed Hannah, drill sergeant, said, "It was



Melanie Blanding/Leader

Cadets of A/1-46 graduated June 29 at Victory Field in front of proud Cadre and parents.

a pleasure to have the opportunity to train all of them and I wish them the best."

Alpha Company is the first company to graduate from LTC this summer. Tucker asked them to think about the Charlie 2 Company—who at the time, had just started day three of their training—and to remember how far they've actually come since then.

"The Alpha Company has bragging rights on all that goes on at Fort Knox, Ky," Tucker said. "Best of luck to every single one of you. I challenge you to be professionals in excellence."

Rite of Passage

Torch Light Ceremony symbolic beginning

BY STEPHANIE TOONE
Staff writer

The word survivor is more than just the title to a hit track by Destiny's Child to the cadets of C, 1-46. As the song played at their Rite of Passage, the cadets reflected on the true meaning of the word. The Rite of Passage ceremony was an opportunity for the cadets to be recognized for their success at the Leader's Training Course.

"They feel like they've really done something," said 2nd Lt. Adam Cates, squad training officer for 1/C/1-46, fourth squad.

"They're done with training. They've made it."

With only a few days left since completing Bold Leader, the Rite of Passage ceremony gave cadets an opportunity to look back and appreciate their time spent at Fort Knox.

For Cadet Lisa Jackson, 2/C/1-46, University of Guam, the ceremony alone represented a sense of achievement.

"We've initiated a lot over the last 23 days," Jackson said. "I think by having this it has showed that we've come a long way, and this is just the beginning to an outstanding career in the Army."

Jackson said that her feelings changed after Rite of Passage. She said she will now try not to take little things for granted.

"Everything that comes to me, I've learned to appreciate it," she said.

During the ceremony, cadets received their Army values tags, representing the seven Army values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. A torch was lit for each of the values.

The location of the ceremony also represented a symbol of accomplishment. The V-shaped trees

symbolized the Roman numeral for five and the victory of the 5th Armored Division in World War II. There are also five torches lit for the division's five campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes/Alsace and Central Europe, defeated by the division.

Along with the history the ceremony signified, the cadets also had tangible symbols of their success. The cadets received a Bold Leader hat and a Bold Leader coin for their accomplishments.

Cates said the most significant keepsake of Rite of Passage is the engraved coin, which has the name and school of the cadet on it.

Coins are more than a keepsake in the military. Being presented a coin, is a symbol of accomplishment and honor for every recipient.

"They can pull that out and say, Hey, I have this. I did this," he said.

Cadet Josh Tompkins, 4/C/1-46, Tennessee Tech University, said he gained pride from his experience at LTC. Tompkins said the ceremony was a realization of his accomplishments.

"It's a big step in everybody's life. We're stepping up to fill some big shoes," he said.

Tompkins said the Rite of Passage was the official stamp of approval of the cadet's success. "It was a culmination of all the events at LTC," he said. "The things we've learned, its all come down to this. We've earned that rite of passage."

As one chapter of their military lives ends, Staff Sgt. Lyle Harris, drill sergeant for second platoon of C, 1-46, said that cadets have a long way to go.

"This is taking them from one phase to the next," Harris said. "They're going to graduate, go into their senior year and then they can go to their advance course. This is kind of like going out of the crawl to walk and run stage."

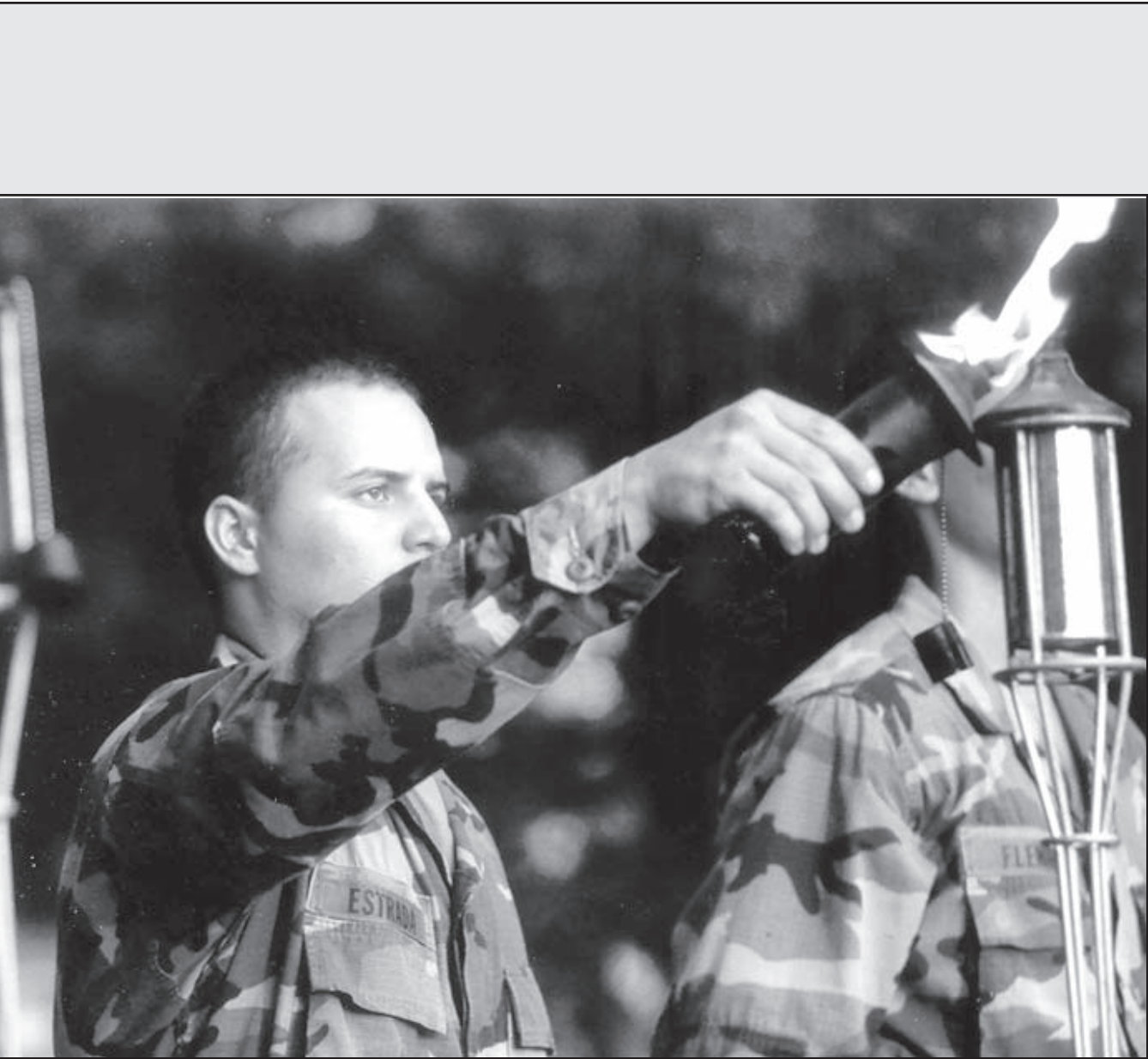


Melanie Blanding/Leader

Above: Cadet Helen Lilly, 3/A/1-46 and Cadet William ____ 3/A/1-46 stand at attention during the torch lighting ceremony. **Right:** Rachael McCaffety, 4/C/1-46 from University of Texas at Arlington, looks out at her company from the line of other cadets during the torch lighting ceremony. McCaffety said the ceremony triggered her emotional side. "I was just looking out at our platoon and thinking about all of our experiences," she said.



Michelle Lohmann/Leader



Michelle Lohmann/Leader



Michelle Lohmann/Leader

Top: Cadets were presented with the Army Values tag during Rite of Passage.
Left: Francesco Estrada, 2/C/1-46 from Texas A&M at Kingsville, lights one of the torches during the ceremony.
Below: Tamika Thorton, 1/C/1-46 from Fort Valley State University, exchanges high fives with cadre after completing the torch lighting ceremony.
Bottom: Jacob Peerless, 4/C/1-46, exchanges high fives with cadre after completing Rite of Passage.



Melanie Blanding/Leader



Michelle Lohmann/Leader



Michelle Lohmann/Leader

GROOVY:

Kelii dances through life with leadership skills

BY NICHOLAS STOUT
Staff writer

The cadet social for C/2-46 began like the scene of most junior high dances—little dancing. But when Cadet Kaleoo Kelii hit the dance floor, the place erupted with people dancing, tapping their feet, clapping their hands and having a good time.

“Dancing is my thing to do,” said Kelii. “I am a very motivated person and I like to motivate people and get things going.”

At LTC, cadets are taught about leadership; leader qualities include motivating the people around you, inspiring people to follow your move and teaching people. Attributes displayed by Kelii as the crowd he started danced the night away.

Born in 1985, in Oahu, Hawaii, Kelii is one of the youngest cadets to pass through the Leaders Training Course. At 17, Kelii has yet to set foot on his college campus while many cadets have already completed a year or two of college as they complete LTC.

After four years of Junior ROTC at Campbell High School in Hawaii, Kelii is excited to get the ball rolling in college and in the military.

“I just want to get things going,” he said. “Rather than waiting around for the future to happen—I want to bring the future in.”

Kelii plans to complete two-year associate’s degree in arts from the New Mexico Military Institute before joining the Army Reserves and completing nursing school.

From there, Kelii looks forward to completing more schooling on the island he grew up on.

“I really look forward to going back home in a few years and having my family see the officer I have become,” he said. “Completing more school in Hawaii will be much easier with my family there.”

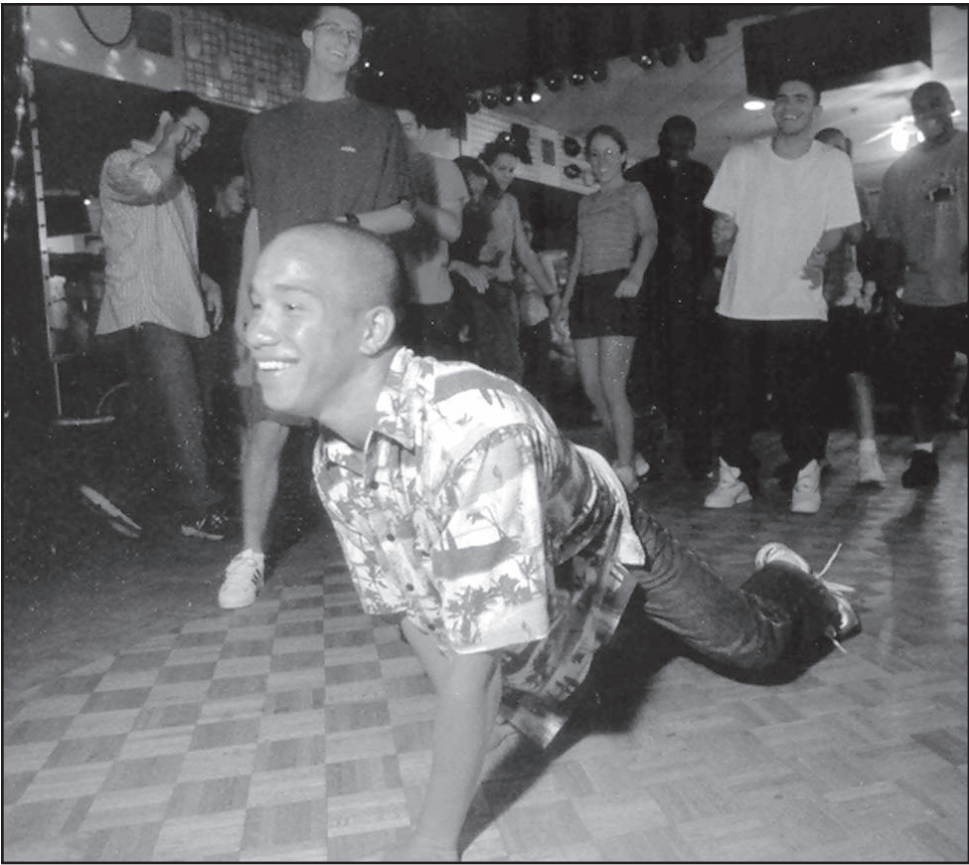
Raised in foster care and a dependant of the state of Hawaii, Kelii says he has been very lucky to live the way he has. In the care of his Aunt Bobbie and Uncle Herman, Kelii says the life he was given in foster care is the very reason behind joining the military.

“It was a blessing to get the care that I did as a foster child,” he said. “With everything that I have received I wanted to give something back in return.”

As a Christian, Kelii describes his goal to pursue nursing in the Army as a way of guiding people through their pain and getting them back on their feet.

“I just want to be there for people and help them get through the pain they endure in the field,” he said. “Everyone has a purpose in this world and in nursing I hope to help make more people aware of that.”

While Kelii will be pursuing nursing, he has also opened his mind to perhaps one day become an



Michelle Lohmann/Leader

Cadet Kaleo Kelii, 3/C/2-46 from New Mexico Military Institute, busts a move on the dance floor during the C/2-46 social. .

Army chaplain, an officer who serves both God and their country and guides soldiers and their families through life’s triumphs and tragedies, according to the Army Web site.

As Kelii completes LTC along with cadets of Charlie Company, 2-46, his goal is to take in as much knowledge and wisdom as he can and gain a good firm ground to move on from.

“I’m having a blast here,” he said. “JROTC was all fun and games—it’s a good feeling knowing that things have gotten more serious here.”

Wiercinski: trust, respect crucial in leadership role

BY STEPHANIE TOONE
Staff writer

Charlie 1-46 and 2-46 learned what makes the U.S. Army endearing on July 1 in the Haszard Auditorium when Col. Francis Wiercinski, chief of current worldwide special operations for the chairman of the joint chief of staff at the Pentagon, explained the three components to the Army’s success: Leadership, technology and great people.

In Wiersinski’s 24 years in the Army, he has experienced great success. As an Infantry officer, he has served at every level from platoon leader to brigade commander. As a Ranger company commander, Wiercinski led his company on a night combat parachute jump to start the invasion of Panama in December 1989.

Last year, Wiercinski was also the ground tactical commander during Operation Anaconda against Al Qaeda forces in Shahi-kot Valley in Afghanistan. Wiercinski spoke of the teamwork and leadership that was needed to complete the units mission of blocking the eastern portion of Afghanistan. He used that experience to explain the importance of good leadership — pointing out five attributes found in great leaders.

Wiercinski told cadets to have integrity, because with integrity he said there is trust in a leader’s character and values.

“People follow you, because they know in tough times they can trust you,” Wiercinski said.

Cadets should also remember to be selfless, Wiercinski said.

“Good leaders eat last and are last to bed,” he said. “They care more about their people than themselves.”

Wiercinski said that good leadership is also found

in those who accept responsibility. It is important to volunteer to take on a task. But, Wiercinski said, it is even more important to take responsibility for making mistakes.

His fourth key to good leadership is passion. Wiercinski said that it is important for cadets to remember that they are human beings.

“You’re human beings, not machines,” he said. “Good leaders show passion for what they’re doing and their people.”

Wiercinski’s final advice to the cadets was to remember that even leaders should show respect for their lower ranking cadre.

“Don’t think your rank can send him or her to their death,” he said.

Wiercinski’s said his main focus was to open a window to the life of an active duty officer. Many cadets gained even more from his lecture.

Valari Peeples, 4/C/1-46, Dallas Baptist University, said that she enjoyed Wiercinski’s presentation because of the visuals of the battle in Afghanistan.

“I liked the tactical movements shown in the slide show,” Peeples said. “It focused in play by play on what he went through.”

Peeples said that the presentation was very informative on what to do in a battle situation.

Brandon Singleton, 4/C/1-46, Hampton University, was a fan of the slide show and the question and answer segment of the evening.

“He gave us good feedback, and he didn’t hesitate to answer personal questions,” he said.

Singleton said that Wiercinski’s advice on noncommissioned officers was beneficial.

“When you get commissioned, you still take advice from NCO’s,” he said, “and you still work as a team.”

For Cadet Andrew Kim, 4/C/2-46, University of



Michelle Lohmann/Leader

Col. Francis J. Wiercinski visits with the cadre at Eagles Dare Forest Hill Climbing Complex of Bold leader last week.

Maryland College Park, Wiercinski’s lecture changed his outlook on the Army.

“It was very inspiring,” Kim said. “I was questioning whether or not to go career or not. It definitely made me want to go career.”

Kim said the best part about the evening was the question and answer segment. He said Wiercinski revealed that he was very personable and likeable.

“He is human like us, but he is still a great leader,”

Kim said.

Wiercinski’s words inspired and informed the cadets. He said that motivation and great leadership skills can help each cadet to stay on the right track to becoming an officer. Wiercinski reminded the cadets of what being in the Army is really about.

“We exist solely to fight and win the country’s wars,” he said. “We must also protect the Constitution.”



Michelle Lohmann/Leader

Inspired by God, dad, Hills' goal is to serve

BY LINDSAY SAINLAR

Staff writer

A change in this cadet's latitude hasn't changed his attitude. Cadet Matt Hills, 3/B/1-46, Wheaton College, has never wanted to stop helping people. He spent the first half of his life living in one country and plans on spending the next half serving another.

Born in Canada, Hills moved to Costa Rica with his parents in 1988 where he stayed for one year before moving to Bogotá, Columbia for approximately 10 years, returning only once to North America for a year to journey back to his birth place.

"It definitely opened up my world view, I can understand and adjust and appreciate other cultures very easily," Hills said about living in another country. "There's definitely more freedom up here (in America), but that was my home for 13 years."

As a child, Hills said he spent a lot of time playing soccer and playing Golden Eye on Nintendo 64, which he claims he was never very good at.

"I was obviously the only white kid there," Hills said about his father's decision to live 45 minutes from the nearest American community. "It worked fine though, some of my best friends are Colombian."

His parents, members of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, traveled to South America to become full-time missionaries and form protestant churches in Bogotá, the capital city of Columbia.

Like his father, who has been a pastor for 17 years, Hills takes his Protestant faith seriously. He said his father has instilled values in him such as integrity and honesty for as long as he can remember.

"Most of what he does, he does to honor a God," Hills said about his father, who was always around to encourage him to keep faith when he began to question God.

When Hills was 10 years old, he went with his family on a vacation to the mountains of Columbia. On the way home to Bogotá, he said the guerilla forces known FARC were attacking the Colombian

police who were driving through the mountains. Hills and his parents' drove right through the ambush; a crossfire between police on one-side and guerilla troops on the other. He said a police car that had been blown up was resting in the mountains.

"I grew up in the midst of violence, it was all around me," Hills said. "I'm used to being a little bit tense and I'll go serve my country and be out there with those guys in the front lines."

Hills attends Wheaton College, a school he said is known as the Harvard of Christian schools. Wheaton is located in the suburbs of Chicago.

Hills said he would like to belong to the church, but isn't interested in becoming a pastor like his father.

"Our lives are living sacrifices to the Lord and I'll go wherever he calls me to go and right now I'm going with the Army," he said. "I feel like this is the place I need to be and wherever that takes me."

From an outside perspective, Hills said he could see how powerful and expansive the US military is and the influence it has on the rest of the world. He said he wants to show the world that America is not only powerful, but that they care.

"The military is a very good professional career, even if you don't do the full 20 years," Hills said. "You really learn to work well with people because there's just such a variety, such a mix here in the Army."

He aspires to be a diplomat for the South American continent and already has idea on how to improve the living situation there, such as giving more money directly to their people and not their government.

"It's a great mission field," he said about his aspiration to become an ambassador. Hill said he recognizes the resemblance between his father's line of work and his own diplomatic dream to help the people in South America.

The Leader's Training Course is teaching him how to lead by example and preparing him for this goal.

"I'm definitely learning more leadership skills and what it really means to be a leader," he said. "I'm a vocal leader, I definitely get up in front. If I don't do it, if I can't do it, I won't ask anybody else to do it."

Cadet William Hills, 3/B/1-46 from Wheaton College, stands in front of his platoon before leading them to the company area. Hills aspires to be a chaplain in the U.S. Army after commissioning.

Adigun finds family and diversity important aspects of Army

BY GINA VAILE

Assistant editor

For 1st Lt. Kazeem Adigun, the military was not only a means for an education, but also the means for learning about diversity, patriotism and family values.

Adigun was commissioned from Morgan State University in Maryland, and branched Armor. Since commissioning, he has spent time in Korea, at Ft. Benning and Ft. Lewis before coming to Ft. Knox.

"Korea was great," he said. "I spent a lot of time in the field but I missed home a lot."

Adigun said the key to his survival for long deployments away from his family is their support for him and his duties as an American soldier.

"I have two brothers and one sister, and we were very adventurous," he said of his childhood. "We have parental support, sometimes too much. I became dependent on my parents and the Army taught me how to depend on myself. But having their love and guidance is what keeps me going."

Adigun said cadets should always remember their parents and try to form relationships with them before they become active in the military.

"It's advantageous to start that relationship early on because the Army pulls you away sometimes and you do not know the next time you'll see your family. When you lose touch, you lose emotions," he said.

"Remember mission first, people always. Even if it's that one or two-minute phone call just to say 'hi.' It will be most appreciated (by the parents)."

Born in Maryland, Adigun spent a great deal of his childhood living in Nigeria. Though he has seen many diverse

places in his life, Adigun describes the Army as a melting pot — an opportunity that civilian life doesn't compare to.

"We have a chance to meet people from different parts of the world with different cultures," he said.

"Just here at LTC, I've met cadets from Puerto Rico, Nigeria ... Guam," he said. "They all have different leadership styles, most of them have never been a leader before. It's much easier to be a follower than a leader, but we see these different leadership styles because everyone is so diverse."

As the XO of C/1-46, Adigun enjoyed spending his time with the cadets. He said he will miss the people and the personalities of C/1-46.

"They would just walk up to each other as if they'd known each other for years," he said.

He will also miss PT with the group. Adigun said he enjoyed running with the C/1-46 cadets.

"You see a lot of yourself in the cadets when they are not able to do push ups properly or run the full two miles. You remember when you first started and couldn't do those things," he said.

Besides PT, Adigun also likes to play tennis for physical activity. But, his real passion is X-Men comic books. Adigun admits he spends nearly \$40 per week on his favorite reading material.

"I need to slow down on that," he laughed.

His laugh and smile are two things Adigun said helped the cadets with their training.

"I smile a lot, it's encouraging. It improves morale for them to get better," he said.

Now that Adigun's LTC experience is over, he awaits the next cycle of privates for basic training here on Ft. Knox.

"To sum it up, this has been an experience," he said.



Michelle Lohmann/Leader

First Lt. Kazeem Adigun is proud of his decision to join the Army and was honored to work with the cadets of C/1-46.

U.S. Weapons

Firing power a 'hooah' experience

Delta trains on range

BY NICHOLAS STOUT
Staff writer

During a live fire demonstration last week, smoke filled the air as shots rang out like lightning bolts crashing through the sky. Dirt and shrapnel flew through the air as ordnance from over thirty fully automatic weapons ripped up the ground.

The cadets of Delta Company were granted a close view of the more destructive power of the military as they received lessons in U.S. Weapons on Miller, Crane and Frasher Ranges.

"This is more of a 'hooah' experience than anything," said Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Cain, the NCOIC of Crane Range. "When it comes down to it—everyone's primary job in the Army is an infantryman."

Delta cadets gained knowledge on the weapons before using them on the range. According to Maj. Kevin Kelly, one of the TAC officers of Delta Company, the training was a familiarization of the weapons.

"These cadets are training to be future leaders," Kelly said. "The weapons these cadets are introduced to will not be their primary weapon—however it is good to be familiar with the weapon systems."

The training was split up into two days of range time—on day one, cadets were introduced to weapons such as the M249 Squad Automatic Rifle (SAW), M203 Grenade Launcher, the AT4 Light Anti-Armor weapon and the M240 machine gun.

On day two, cadets spent time on Frasher Range learning about the 9mm pistol; one of the primary weapons officers in the Army grow accustomed to.

"This is important that every soldier learns to fire these weapons—at some time a soldier may

be face with a situation that involves them covering down on a weapon," said Kelly. "Any chance to fire any kind of weapon system is a good thing."

Cadet Robina Simkol, 1/D/1-46, from Wenworth Military Academy enjoyed the opportunity to fire the weapons.

"The weapons kicked back a lot for me," Simkol said.

At 4-foot-9, Simkol held and fired an M240, a weapon that weighed 34 pounds and expelled 900 rounds per minute.

"I didn't aim—I just pulled the trigger," she laughed. "This is the first time I have ever shot a weapon."

The task cadets were given involved loading the weapons, shooting them and clearing them.

In 9mm training, cadets had the task of shooting at targets of close range with two magazines of ammunition, making a total of 20 rounds to fire. As the 20 targets popped out of the ground in random order, cadets were challenged to see who could hit the most targets.

Chris Yoger, 1/D/1-46, of Marion Military Institute hit all 20 targets, an achievement that earned him a ROTC coin presented by Capt. Jim Joswick, the officer in charge of Frasher range.

"It was a lot of fun," he said. "A friend and I kind of had a little private competition going to see who could hit the most targets—he hit nineteen."

"This is a leadership quality," said Staff Sgt. Eric Wisdom, one of the Crane Range instructors. "As commissioned officers they may be faced with teaching a younger soldier the weapons system—it's good when these cadets have experience and can step up to show someone else the proper technique in handling the weapons."



Michelle Lohmann/Leader



Melanie Blanding/Leader



Melanie Blanding/Leader

Top: Mark Quivers, 3/D/1-46 from Prairie View A&M University, fires a M249.

Middle: Cadets from D/1-46 practice target shooting.

Above: Cadet Travis McGrann, 4/D/1-46 from Pacific Lutheran University, listens to directions before beginning his rounds with the machine gun.

Left: Cadets from D/1-46 learned the proper ways to use weapons during training on the firing ranges last week.

